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Mr. Bent here throws some light upon the Monomatapa Empire which flourished in this region several hundred years ago.

At present Fort Salisbury is the centre of a new English enterprise and is the future capital of the Mashonaland gold fields *redivivi*.

A. L. F., JR.

F. J. BLISS. *A mound of many cities, or Tell el Hesi excavated*, by FREDERICK JONES BLISS. 8vo., pp. XII, 197. New York, Macmillan & Co., 1894. Price, \$2.25.

The task of excavating the mound of Tell el Hesi, in Palestine, 16 miles E. of Gaza, and 23 miles W. of Hebron, was commenced by Mr. Flinders Petrie in April, 1890. In his "reconnaissance of six weeks, during which he examined the tell merely at its sides, he was able to reconstruct its past history from the apparently unimportant remains he found, and to reach conclusions which my (Mr. Bliss') detailed examinations through four seasons . . . merely modified, but did not materially alter." Mr. Petrie has reported on his own work in his publication, "*Tell el Hesi*" (*Lachish*), published in 1891, for the Palestine Exploration Fund. During 1891, 1892 and 1893, Mr. Bliss carried forward the work on a quite different scale, cutting down one-third of the mound, layer by layer. He agrees with Petrie and Conder in identifying the site with the city of Lachish: in fact, it was through his discovery of the cuneiform tablet with the letter containing the name of Zimridi, governor of Lachish, that the strongest argument in favor of the identification was secured.

Mr. Bliss' conclusions are that some 2000 B. C. the Amorites built a town on this bluff, some 60 ft. above the stream-bed of the Wady el Hesi, and on the ruins of this city their successors built another and then another, until about 400 B. C., when the site seems to have been abandoned, the ruins of the last inhabitants being 60 ft. above the ruins of the first builders, with a series of six intermediate towns, each represented by a separate layer: in all eight layers. The dates assigned by Mr. Bliss to the various towns are the following: City Sub I, 1700 + B. C.; City I, c. 1600 B. C.; City Sub II, c. 1550 B. C.; City II, c. 1500; City III, c. 1450; City Sub IV, c. 1400; City IV, c. 1300-1000; City V, c. 1000; City VI, c. 800; Cities VII, VIII, c. 500 and 400 respectively. The earliest three or four settlements were evidently the largest and most important, the later settlements being confined to the small area of the tell, a good part of which, however, has been anciently undermined and carried away by the stream. Bliss' main excavation area was 160 ft. N.-S. and 125 ft. W.-E. The most inter-

esting ruins of the earliest period were the great city walls, 16 ft. thick and having great corner towers, 56 by 28 ft., with rooms about 10 ft. square. The early pottery, called Amorite by Mr. Petrie, occurs in City Sub and I, while the Phœnician pottery begins to appear in City II, running through City IV. In City II was an interesting blast-furnace. In City III was found the famous Cuneiform tablet of Zimrida. Several scarabs of the XVIII Egyptian dynasty were found in Cities II and III. City IV also has XVIII-dynasty scarabs, with a XIX-dynasty scarab toward the top, near which were found a cylinder with XXII-dynasty glazing and a Phœnician inscription of about 1100 to 1000 B. C. Near by was a stamped jar-handle inscribed in hieroglyph, "The palace of Ra-aa-Khepuru," that is, Amenhotep II. In City Sub IV were found an Egyptianizing bronze statuette and an extremely rude terracotta female statuette: also a wine-press (c. 1200 B. C.) in excellent preservation. A fine public building with a symmetrical plan was found. It was 56 ft. square, and its largest room measured 30 ft. by 15. In this stratum Mr. Petrie had found a building with the two famous door-jambs, each bearing a pilaster in low relief, terminating in a volute in place of a capital. Many of the objects found in these two strata have an Egyptian character—which adds to the testimony of the scarabs. At the same time these strata represent the principal age of Phœnician pottery. In City V a very peculiar and interesting building was found, covering an area of 112 ft. by 45, and apparently formed of three halls divided into three aisles by two rows of brick piers or columns. The characteristic pottery of Cities V to VIII was the Jewish, *i. e.*, coarse copies of the older Phœnician types; and "polished red and black Greek ware appeared from the top of the tell down to the higher layers of City VI." Of the last chapters, entitled "Sketch of the Expedition," and "The Arabs and the Fellahin," it is not necessary to speak, though they add greatly to the interest of the book. Certainly the archæological results of the excavations are interesting, but they are disappointing, in so far as they relate to the history of art, from the extreme insignificance of the objects found.

A. L. F., Jr.